

one, he thought, would deny that to increase the milling business in Canada, and send the raw material, wheat, out in the manufactured state, would benefit not only the farmer, but the whole Dominion. "Putting an export duty on wheat, without doubt would compel the American miller to establish his mills in Canada, instead of in Minneapolis and Duluth. This certainly would be a great benefit to our western as well as our eastern farmer. * * * Legislate in the direction of compelling the raw material to be manufactured in the Dominion. The by-product will be of immense advantage to the farmers of Eastern Canada and the whole Dominion." Mr. Meighen insisted with much earnestness that the West will not develop as it ought to, unless large milling industries are carried on in its midst. Few people properly appreciate the influence of cheap mill by-product on extensive farming, and one is scarcely possible without the other. Dairying, he pointed out, only becomes a leading industry, and in a prosperous state when the milling of by-product, at reasonable prices becomes available. "Bran and shorts enter largely into successful poultry raising, swine husbandry, cattle and sheep feeding and dairying. I do not think I am putting the case too strong when I assert that Canada's greatest need to-day is cheap feed."

LUMBER MATTERS.

The annual meeting of the Ontario Lumbermen's Association took place in Toronto last week, Mr. W. D. Lummis presiding. One of the chief subjects discussed was the unfair treatment by the railroads in the matter of demurrage. It was alleged that, owing to the uncertain supply of railway cars at shipping points there was great irregularity in forwarding cars, with the result that a number of cars from one consignor accumulate in transit, and all are placed at one time on the siding to be unloaded, the demurrage being strictly assessed without regard to the cause of accumulation. It was finally decided to join with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to urge some method for equitable adjustment upon the Railway Commission. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, J. B. Miller; first vice-president, Robert Watt; second vice-president, Dwight J. Turner; secretary-treasurer, W. B. Tindall; board of management, W. D. Lummis, R. Laidlaw, George Thompson, W. B. McLean, W. P. Bull, R. H. Roys, D. L. White, J. B. Miller, W. J. Ard, W. J. Sheppard, Dwight J. Turner, and Robert Watt.

Another consequence of the deliberations of the Association was the sending of a deputation to Ottawa in conjunction with one from British Columbia, to interview the Government in the matter of tariff arrangements on lumber. This deputation, which was headed by Mr. J. B. Miller, of Parry Sound; the president; Mr. W. D. Lummis, of Sarnia, the retiring president, and the executive, interviewed Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Hon. Wm. Patterson, and other members of the Government on Tuesday last.

Mr. T. F. Paterson, who presented the case from the British Columbia lumbermen's point of view, repeated their request of former years:

That the same duty be placed upon lumber and shingles coming into Canada that people of the United States impose upon lumber going into that country. They asked that they be not singled out in the formation of the tariff, but that they be given the same chance that the other manufacturers of the country have. They felt that the

farmers of Manitoba and the North-West were in a better financial position than the individual citizen of British Columbia, and were well able to bear any just share of the taxation of the country. The lumbermen also protested against being singled out as the particular industry that should be called upon to give relief to the farmers of Manitoba and the North-West, who are protected by a duty of sixty cents per barrel on flour, twenty per cent. on oatmeal, 12 cents on wheat, 10 cents on oats, horses, twenty per cent., etc. These products in which they are protected are sent to British Columbia in large quantities, while they send their money for lumber to the United States, though they cannot sell their own products there.

Mr. Paterson also pointed out that British Columbia lumbermen were obliged to buy their machinery from the United States, and that the operation of the recently enacted dumping clauses was making it more expensive to buy. He also asked that the dumping clause be put into operation against dutiable lumber coming into Canada, the prices being in some cases as much as \$250 to \$500 below the list price.

The Ontario lumbermen, headed by Mr. C. Beck, of Penetanguishene, made their request for a duty of two dollars per thousand on lumber.

Mr. W. P. Bull, speaking on behalf of the Ontario Lumbermen's Association, said that, notwithstanding the reduction of from \$2 to \$4 in the price of the red pine, the stocks on hand are still large. As an illustration of the competition to which the Ontario lumbermen are subjected, he quoted the experience of the lumbermen in Toronto. After the recent disastrous fire in that city the builders, it is alleged, were flooded with offers from the American lumbermen to supply lumber, with the result that eighty per cent. of the lumber used in the construction of new buildings is yellow pine from the United States. Mr. Bull calculated that on the basis of the recent Ontario sale, the first cost to the lumbermen of Ontario may be placed at \$5 for stumpage and \$2 for annual dues, totalling \$7 per thousand, and if he wants to send his lumber to the United States, he has to pay \$2 per thousand additional. The cost of production is also greater in Ontario than in the United States. The American lumberman has no stumpage and no dues to pay; he gets the land in fee simple for \$2 per acre and can cut the lumber when he likes, while the Ontario lumberman has to take the lumber off within fifteen years.

From the reply of the Premier, it would appear likely that the Government intends to do something in the matter as soon as the Finance Minister returns home.

Last month the Western Retail Lumber Dealers' Association held a meeting in Winnipeg, and decided to terminate their agreement with the manufacturers. This agreement was made at a time when the trade in the whole western country was in a very desperate condition, and many lumbermen, both wholesale and retail, were on the verge of collapse. It provided that manufacturers should sell to none but members of the association, except in the case of sales to the Government and the railways; also that prices should be kept at a reasonable level, a feature which affected wholesale dealers and retailers alike. It is understood, indeed, that the cause of the break-up of the association was the heavy importation of lumber from the United States. The retailers could not resist the temptation to buy this at the cheap price at which it was offered. This competition is said to have prostrated the British Columbia interests, and the manufacturers of that province had to withdraw from the association, a step which it was afterwards decided by other manufacturers to follow. The retailers as well as the wholesalers and manufacturers claim there has never been anything in the nature of a com-